

68 THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND HIS TIME

With thanks, congratulations and good wishes,
believe me,

Sincerely yours,

THBODOBE
ROOSEVELT.

From San, Francisco the fleet went to New Zealand, Aus-
tralia, the Philippines, China and Japan, and
home by way
of the (Suez Canal. It was gone about 16
months, arriving
at Hampton Eoads on February 22, 1909. In
placing Ad-
miral Sperry in command the President wrote
him a letter,
March 21, 1908, which shows in the following
passages how
desirous he was to maintain friendly relations
with Japan:

"I need not tell you that you should exercise
the most
careful watch throughout the time that you
are in Oriental
waters—for you will naturally exercise the
most careful
watch at all times both before and after you
leave the
Orient. I wish to impress upon you, what I do
not suppose
is necessary, to see to it that none of our men
does anything
out of the way while in Japan. If you give the
enlisted
men leave while at Tokio or anywhere else in
Japan be
careful to choose only those upon whom you
can abso-
lutely depend. There must be no suspicion of
insolence or
rudeness on our part.

"I firmly believe that the Japanese
Government will
use every effort to see that the highest
consideration and
courtesy are accorded to our people, and you
of course will
do everything in your power to show the
utmost considera-
tion and courtesy to the Japanese with whom
you are
brought in contact, not only in Japan but
elsewhere. We

want to take peculiar care in this matter."

The President went to Hampton Roads to meet the fleet on its return, and on board the flagship of the Admiral he delivered an address of congratulation which is published in full in his ' Autobiography.⁷

The return of the fleet was greeted with a great outburst of pride and praise, and the newspapers that had been most violent in their opposition to the voyage were loudest in their congratulations and expressions of national rejoicing over its achievement.